United Nations A/67/698–S/2013/24

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
16 January 2013
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 105
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 16 January 2013 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, I should like to draw your attention to the following information:

At noon on Tuesday, 15 January 2013, armed terrorist groups in the Layramun quarter launched two rockets at Aleppo University, killing 82 students and injuring hundreds of persons. The terrorist attack also destroyed student dormitories, some of which were being used by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to shelter refugees subjected for several months to bombardment by the terrorist groups, whose offensive in Aleppo had destroyed numerous historic and economic sites. This attack on the University was not the first against an educational institution; the criminals have already destroyed 2,362 schools and killed dozens of innocent pupils and teachers.

The victims of the latest terrorist operation were students attending the first day of examinations. Their only crime was to seek an education in order to build the future of the country and contribute to its reconstruction and development.

The Security Council has thus far failed to condemn the terrorist scourge. It has ignored its own resolutions and the determination of the international community to defeat the perpetrators and supporters of terrorism.

Certain parties, particularly the Western States, claim to be combating terrorism in Mali. We are in favour of combating terrorism wherever it may be. Yet those same parties support terrorism and the terrorist groups in Syria. They provide cover for its backers, disregarding the suffering of thousands of Syrian victims; the devastation of infrastructure built with the sweat of the Syrian people; and the extensive damage to public and private property. Also taking part in the anti-Syrian campaign are certain media networks to which a group of Western and Gulf States have given the disgraceful task of distorting and inverting the facts in order to mislead the Syrian people and global public opinion on what is happening in Syria.

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Syria appeals to the Member States of the United Nations, and those that are members of the Security Council in particular, to condemn those terrorist crimes, including the massacre of students, employees and civilian refugees in Aleppo University. There are no more excuses for those States that display double standards by supporting terrorism in Syria while condemning it elsewhere.

The terrorist murderers will not deter Syria from protecting its civilians, students and schools. Syria will continue to combat terrorism while implementing its political programme for dialogue among the Syrian people, as that is the safest way to resolve the ongoing crisis.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 105, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative